

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

September 26th, 2014

Lessons prepared by Amie Sondheim & Justine Light

Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1 Starter Schools

Did you know there is a classroom shortage in Calgary? There are not enough classrooms for the amount of kids who need to go to school. What do you think a good solution to this classroom shortage is? This first story is about a solution to this problem in Calgary using a new kind of school called “starter schools”.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Fill in the blanks with these vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
shortage	not enough of something
enable	to allow; to make possible
suburbs	the area just outside of a city, or town
strap (v)	to attach a thing to something else with a strap (a narrow piece of material)
bare basics	only what is needed, nothing extra
interim	in between times; temporary
permanent	supposed to exist for a long time

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Starter school – a temporary, smaller and more basic school that students can attend

Modular classrooms- the small, simple buildings that will make up the starter school

1. This type of school will be something we can use in the _____, while we wait for more schools to be built.
2. We got tired of living downtown, so we moved out to the _____.
3. This living arrangement is not _____, I will be moving out soon.
4. We don't have much here; only what we need. It's really just the _____.
5. We need more doctors helping the Ebola victims in Africa, there seems to be a _____ of medical help.
6. Could you _____ the box onto the top of the car, so we can bring it with us?
7. Doing well in school will _____ you to pass the course.

Listening for details: Now listen to the first news story from the audio and find the answers to these questions. *Answers are in the appendix*

1. Why will people need and use starter schools?	
2. How much money will building the 4 schools cost?	
3. What will the schools not include?	
4. How many students will go to the starter schools?	
5. What will replace the starter schools eventually?	

Discussion: What do you think students and teachers need in order to have a successful and productive classroom? Do you think having these starter schools is a good idea? Why, or why not?

News story #2 More Cabs - Less Waiting

Do you take taxicabs to get around the city? What is the longest you've ever had to wait for a cab? This second story is about Calgary's city council approving the addition of new taxis to the city, due to a number of customers having to wait a long time for a ride.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match words with definitions.

Answers are in the appendix.

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	1. industry	a) short for 'license plates' – the metal rectangle sign on the backs of cars that identify whose car it is by numbers and letters
	2. expansion	b) general business activity or commercial enterprise
	3. decade	c) to express your choice or opinion
	4. complaints	d) ten years
	5. plates	e) the act of growing
	6. peak	f) an expression of unhappiness about something
	7. vote	g) the top of something

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

City council – a group of people who discuss city issues and vote on solutions

Buck fifty – a dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50)

Listening Activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Calgary's taxi industry _____	a) has just expanded. b) is just about to expand.
2. More than _____ new taxi plates have been approved for getting issued.	a) three-hundred b) four-hundred
3. Due to customer complaints about wait times, _____.	a) Over 100 taxis will be operating by the end of December, this year. b) All Calgary taxi drivers will increase their hours worked during peak times.
4. Peak demand times include _____.	a) all day on Friday and Saturday. b) the nights during the weekends .
5. The vote made by city council will lead to _____.	a) the taxi rates increasing by 8%. b) the taxi rates increasing by a buck fifty.

Retell the news story: Can you retell this story? Listen to it one more time, and take notes. Then retell this story in your own words to a partner.

News story #3 Interesting Hiring Strategy

Do you like to go to Tim Horton's for coffee, a meal, or a donut? Would you like to work there? This next story is about how Tim Horton's is trying new things in order to make people want to come work for them.

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words from the story	Related words
	1. neighbourly	a) normal average
	2. recruit	b) charm entertain
	3. regular	c) adjustable can change easily
	4. delight	d) friendly sociable
	5. flexible	e) permanent mark design or symbol
	6. visible	f) attract employ
	7. tattoo	g) seeable noticeable

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Pop-up store – temporary store

Fast food chain – a business that sells food, which only takes a few minutes to make

Listening Activity: True/False

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file and decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Tim Horton's is a fast food chain.
2. ____ Tim Horton's needs to recruit more employees.
3. ____ A Tim Horton's employee opened his home in Oakridge to strangers.
4. ____ A regular home was turned into a pop-up store for half a day.
5. ____ Doug Gunn wanted to delight Tim Horton's staff by giving away coffee.
6. ____ Tim Horton's has specific shifts that flexible people can work.
7. ____ The newest change Tim Horton's has made is that people who work there can show their tattoos now.

Discussion: What do you think of Tim Horton's recruitment idea from this story? Have you ever worked at a restaurant? Did you enjoy it? If you haven't, where have you worked? What job would you most like to have and why?

Language Focus: Modal Verbs – The Form

Modals are a little different from normal verbs. This lesson will give you information about the rules for placing modal verbs in a sentence.

Below are all of the modal verbs in English

Can	Could	Will	Would	Might
Shall	Should	Ought to	Must	May

Look at the statements with modals taken from the audio and see if you can notice a pattern in how they are used in a sentence. The pattern you are about to find will be true of all modals.

1. Your Task: First identify the **modal**, next try to find a nearby **infinitive verb** (without the “to”), then try to find the **subject of the statement** (who, what or where the statement is about).

Example: ‘**Starter**’ **schools** **will** **enable** children to attend schools in their own neighbourhoods”

Now you try!

Answers are in the appendix

- a) ...the school division will take anything it can get.
- b) There is no timeline when the schools will be ready...
- c) ...the new cabs must be in service at peak demand times like Friday and Saturday nights.
- d) City council also voted today to raise taxi rates by 8 per cent. That will add a buck-fifty to an 18-dollar taxi ride.
- e) A fast food chain hopes a neighbourly touch will help recruit more staff.

2. What are the rules for the placement of modals in a sentence in regards to the infinitive?

3. What are the rules with using an ‘s’ on the end of the modal with third person singular?

4. What is different about the placement of these modal verbs? Identify the **modal verbs** and the **infinitive verb** in these statements.

- a) Calgarians will soon find 126 new cabs on the streets by the end of this year...
- b) A permanent school would eventually be constructed beside it.
- c) These new plates will only go to drivers...

5. What part of speech, or word class, is between each modal and infinitive?

6. What new rule can we add to the previous rules?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	SEPTEMBER 26 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Rosa Marchitelli . You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of September 26 th .	0:00
Story 1	Alberta's premier is saying that "starter" schools are one new way to deal with the classroom shortage in Calgary. Jim Prentice said that, " 'Starter' schools will enable children to attend schools in their own neighbourhoods", when he announced 30 million dollars to build 4 'starter' schools in Calgary suburbs. Starter schools are a group of modular classrooms strapped together. It's the bare basics -- no gymnasium, no library. But the premier suggests it's a good interim measure. Each of the starter schools should house 250 students in 10 modulars. A permanent school would eventually be constructed beside it. CBE chair Joy Bowen-Eyre says the school division will take anything it can get. There is no timeline when the schools will be ready but the Calgary Board of Education says definitely not by next school year.	0:10
Story 2	Calgary's taxi industry is about to have its biggest expansion in decades. City council has approved issuing 383 new taxi plates. After years of customer complaints about long waits for taxis, Calgarians will soon find 126 new cabs on the streets by the end of this year... with 257 more coming next year. These new plates will only go to drivers and the new cabs must be in service at peak demand times like Friday and Saturday nights. City council also voted today to raise taxi rates by 8 per cent. That will add a buck-fifty to an 18-dollar taxi ride.	1:14
Story 3	A fast food chain hopes a neighbourly touch will help recruit more staff. Tim Horton's opened a pop-up store this morning inside a regular home in Oakridge. It gave away free coffee and doughnuts until noon. Doug Gunn -- the director of marketing -- says they wanted to surprise people and delight them and say 'come on in.' The team members are people who work in restaurants everyday. We want you to come in and say 'I see myself working at Tim Horton's. Gunn says the company offers employees flexible hours, and beginning today, staff across the country are allowed to have visible tattoos.	2:07

Answer Keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

1. This type of school will be something we can use in the **___interim___**, while we wait for more schools to be built.
2. We got tired of living downtown, so we moved out to the **___suburbs___**.
3. This living arrangement is not **___permanent___**, I will be moving out soon.
4. We don't have much here; only what we need. It's really just the **___bare basics___**.
5. We need more doctor's helping the Ebola victims in Africa, there seems to be a **___shortage___** of medical help.
6. Could you **___strap___** the box onto the top of the car, so we can bring it with us?
7. Doing well in school will **___enable___** you to pass the course.

Listening

1. Why will people need and use starter schools?	Because there is a classroom shortage in Calgary
2. How much money will building the 4 schools cost?	30 million dollars
3. What will the schools not include?	No libraries or gymnasiums
4. How many students will go to the starter schools?	250
5. What will replace the starter schools eventually?	A permanent school

News story 2

Vocabulary

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
b	1. industry	a) license plates – the metal rectangle on the backs of cars that identify whose car it is by numbers and letters
e	2. expansion	b) general business activity or commercial enterprise
d	3. decade	c) to express your choice or opinion
f	4. complaints	d) ten years
a	5. plates	e) the act of growing
g	6. peak	f) an expression of unhappiness about something
c	7. vote	g) the top of something

Listening

1. Calgary's taxi industry _____	a) has just expanded b) is just about to expand
2. More than _____ new taxi plates have been approved for getting issued.	a) three- hundred b) four-hundred
3. Due to customer complaints about wait times, _____.	a) Over 100 taxis will be operating by the end of December, this year. b) All Calgary taxi drivers will increase their hours worked during peak times.
4. Peak demand times include _____.	a) All day on Friday and Saturday b) The nights during the weekends
5. The vote made by city council will lead to _____.	a) the taxi rates increasing by 8% b) the taxi rates increasing by a buck fifty

News story 3

Vocabulary

Answer	Words from the story	Related words
d	1. neighbourly	a) normal average
f	2. recruit	b) charm entertain
a	3. regular	c) adjustable can change easily
b	4. delight	d) friendly sociable
c	5. flexible	e) permanent mark design or symbol
g	6. visible	f) attract employ
e	7. tattoo	g) seeable noticeable

Listening

1. T Tim Horton's is a fast food chain.
2. T Tim Horton's needs to recruit more employees.
3. F A Tim Horton's employee opened his home in Oakridge to strangers.
4. T A regular home was turned into a pop-up store for half a day.
5. F Doug Gunn wanted to delight Tim Horton's staff by giving away coffee.
6. F Tim Horton's has specific shifts that flexible people can work.
7. T The newest change Tim Horton's has made is that people who work there can show their tattoos now.

Language Focus: Modal Verbs – The Form

1. Now you try!

- a) ...the school division **will take** anything it can get.
- b) There is no timeline when the schools **will be** ready...
- c) ...the new cabs **must be** in service at peak demand times like Friday and Saturday nights.
- d) City council also voted today to raise taxi rates by 8 per cent. **That will add** a buck-fifty to an 18-dollar taxi ride.
- e) A fast food chain hopes a neighbourly touch **will help** recruit more staff.

2. What are the rules for the placement of modals in a sentence in regards to the infinitive?

Modals are followed directly by the infinitive of another verb, without the "to" in front of the infinitive.

3. What are the rules with using an 's' on the end of the modal with third person singular (if the subject is an 'it', 'he' or 'she')? Modals don't use an 's' for the third person singular. E.g. singular subject, "the school division" in a) is an "it", however, we would not say "the school division wills take anything..." So, regardless of the subject's status as third person singular or not, the modal will not change forms.

4. What is different about the placement of these modal verbs? Identify the **modal verbs** and the **infinitive verb** in these statements.

- a) Calgarians **will** soon **find** 126 new cabs on the streets by the end of this year...
- b) A permanent school **would** eventually **be** constructed beside it.
- c) These new plates **will** only **go** to drivers...

5. What part of speech, or word class, is between each modal and infinitive? The words “soon, eventually and only” are all adverbs.

6. What new rule can we add to the previous rules? So, another rule is that you may insert an adverb between the modal and the infinitive.